

1 [Urging the Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women"]

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3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to establish a memorial for**
4 **"Comfort Women" and to educate the community about stopping global human**
5 **trafficking of women and girls.**

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7 WHEREAS, According to most international historians, the term "comfort women"
8 euphemistically refers to an estimated 200,000 women and young girls who were kidnapped
9 and forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during its colonial and wartime
10 occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War
11 II; and

12 WHEREAS, During the 15 years of invasion and occupation of Asian countries,
13 unspeakable and well-documented war-crimes, including mass rape, wholesale massacres,
14 heinous torture, and other atrocities, were committed by the Japanese Imperial Army
15 throughout the occupied countries and colonies; and

16 WHEREAS, Of the few top Japanese military leaders who were investigated and
17 convicted as war criminals in the postwar War Crime Tribunals in Tokyo, Nanjing, Manila,
18 Yokohama, and Khabarovsk, many escaped prosecution; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2001 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution
20 No. 842-01, urging the government of Japan, on the 50th anniversary of the US-Japan Peace
21 Treaty, to fully acknowledge and apologize for Japan's wartime atrocities and provide just
22 compensation for the surviving victims of its aggression; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2007 the U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Mike Honda's
24 bipartisan House Resolution 121, which also called on the Government of Japan to formally

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1 acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Armed Forces'
2 coercion of young women into sexual slavery; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2013, the San Francisco Board passed Resolution No. 218-13
4 condemning Japan's denial of its system of sexual enslavement during World War II and
5 calling for justice for "comfort women"; and

6 WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II
7 (1941-1945) and the Pacific War (1931-1945) and the defeat of Japanese imperialism and
8 militarism by the Allies; and

9 WHEREAS, Several cities in the U.S., including, Glendale and Rohnert Park, CA; Long
10 Island, NY; Palisades Park and Union City, NJ; Fairfax, VA; and Michigan City, MI have
11 already erected memorials to help remember the "comfort women" during Japanese
12 occupation in the Pacific War; and

13 WHEREAS, Victimization of women has occurred in other countries, however, it does
14 not in any way excuse the actions of the Japanese Imperial Army; and

15 WHEREAS, Today there are an estimated 20.9 million victims of human trafficking
16 globally, of which 55% are women and girls; forced labor and human trafficking worldwide is a
17 \$150 billion criminal industry; and

18 WHEREAS, San Francisco is not immune to the problem, and has been considered a
19 destination for human trafficking due to its ports, airports, industry, and rising immigrant
20 populations; and

21 WHEREAS, Learning about this victimization and teaching about it will help stop the
22 modern epidemic of human trafficking, which occurs in San Francisco and many other
23 countries around the world; and

24 WHEREAS, Leaders of the Japanese American community, which faced mass
25 incarceration of 120,000 in US "concentration camps" in WWII and share a history of

1 discrimination with other communities, have worked closely with the broader Asian Pacific
2 Islander community in the past decades to strengthen relationships and build trust,
3 understanding, and community for civil rights and social justice; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a city of immigrants and their descendants, many of
5 whom have ancestral ties to Asian and Pacific Islander nations and have direct or indirect
6 experience with Japan’s past system of sexual enslavement; and

7 WHEREAS, City departments and the San Francisco Unified School District are
8 exploring other opportunities to educate the community about “comfort women,” current day
9 human trafficking, and efforts to end violence and abuse of women and girls; and

10 WHEREAS, A growing coalition of immigrant communities, women’s organizations, and
11 human rights groups have organized to establish a memorial for “comfort women” and the
12 millions of victims of the Japanese military in San Francisco to ensure that the plight and
13 suffering of these girls and women will never be forgotten or erased from history; now,
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That appropriate City and County agencies will work with the community
16 organizations to design and establish the memorial; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
18 Francisco during the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II expresses its strong support
19 of creating a public memorial in memory of those girls and women who suffered
20 immeasurable pain and humiliation as sex slaves and as a sacred place for remembrance,
21 reflection, remorsefulness, and atonement for generations to come.

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